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FROM: LONDON

TO: Secretary of State

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SENT DEPARTMENT 5340; REPEATED INFORMATION BONN 359, PARIS 833,
MOSCOW 117, BERLIN 120.

PARIS FOR USRO

PASS DEFENSE

FROM HILLENBRAND.

FOLLOWING ARE SOME GENERAL IMPRESSIONS AFTER SECOND DAY OF
WORKING GROUP SESSION.

1. BOTH GERMANS AND FRENCH CONTINUE TO TAKE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS POSITION ON REUNIFICATION PROPOSALS, AND THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE PROSPECT IN WORKING GROUP OF RESTORING MAJOR ELEMENTS OF ORIGINAL US PROPOSALS OR EVEN GERMAN PROPOSALS MADE AT PARIS MEETINGS. IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE POSSIBLE TO PRESERVE FRAMEWORK OF PHASED PLAN AND TO RETAIN A FEW NOVELTIES IN ITS CONTENT SUCH AS CREATION OF MIXED COMMITTEE PRIOR TO HOLDING OF FREE ELECTIONS. NEW AND PECULIAR GERMAN PROPOSAL TO USE RESIDUAL AUTHORITY OF OCCUPYING POWERS TO IMPLEMENT DECISIONS OF MIXED COMMITTEE OBVIOUSLY NEEDS TO BE RECONSIDERED (SEE EMBTEL 5334).

2. ATTITUDE OF TIMIDITY AND LACK OF SELF-CONFIDENCE ON PART FEDERAL REPUBLIC OFFICIALS VIS-A-VIS GDR, AS EXPRESSED BY VON BRENTANO TO ACTING SECRETARY, SEEMS TO BE MAJOR INHIBITING FACTOR. HAVING READ SPATE OF NEWSPAPER SPECULATION ABOUT POSSIBLE CONFEDERATION PROPOSALS, THEY APPARENTLY INSIST ON LABELING ANY CONTACT BETWEEN EAST AND WEST GERMANS BEYOND THOSE IN THEIR OWN PROPOSALS AS EQUIVALENT TO CONFEDERATION, EVEN THOUGH SUCH CONTACTS OR INSTITUTIONALIZATIONS THEREOF INVOLVE NO EXECUTIVE OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL POWERS. THERE IS ALSO STRONG CDU DISTRUST OF SPD

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-2- 5340, APRIL 15, 2 PM, FROM LONDON.

OF SPD AND INSISTENCE ON SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ANY POSSIBILITY OF SPD COMBINATION WITH EAST ZONE ELEMENTS TO FORM MAJORITY AGAINST CDU.

3. BRITISH ARE PLAYING UNUSUALLY RETICENT ROLE. THEY HAVE PUT FORWARD NO SECURITY PROPOSALS AND THEIR BERLIN PAPER REFLECTED NONE OF WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT BASIC CHANGES WHICH THEY ALLEGEDLY ARE RESIGNED TO. IF WE MAY HAZARD GUESS, THEY WILL NOT REVEAL THEMSELVES FURTHER IN PRESENT WORKING GROUP SESSIONS BUT WILL CONCUR WITHOUT TOO MUCH DIFFICULTY IN AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS REACHED BY WORKING GROUP. THERE HAVE BEEN NO HINTS OF ANY PROPOSALS FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY MEASURES NOT LINKED TO PHASED PLAN.

4. FRENCH GENERALLY CAN BE COUNTED ON TO REACT ALMOST PATHOLOGICALLY TO SUGGESTIONS THAT UN MIGHT PLAY ANY SIGNIFICANT ROLE. THEY HAVE, HOWEVER, INDICATED AT LEAST WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF UN FUNCTION RE BERLIN AS ENVISAGED BRITISH PAPER. WE ARE SENDING SEPARATE CABLE COMMENTING ON FRENCH SECURITY PROPOSALS.

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